

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A laminate for sealing an electrolyte or protecting an electrode of a battery, comprising

a metal layer,

~~a surface-treated layer formed over the metal layer, which is an inert protective or passive film formed by oxidative or acid treatment of said metal layer, and~~

an inert protective layer formed over the surface of the metal layer in contact with said metal layer, wherein the inert protective layer is a reaction product of an oxidizing reaction of the metal layer surface or of a chemical reaction of the metal layer surface with an acid, and

a layer of an adhesive resin comprised of a polyolefin modified by carboxyl group or a derivative thereof, formed over the ~~said surface-treated~~ inert protective layer and ~~thermally bonded thereto~~ fusedly bonded with heat thereto.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal layer is comprised of one or more metals selected from the group consisting of aluminum, nickel, copper, iron and alloys thereof.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive resin is a graft-modified polyolefin resin obtained by graft-copolymerizing a polyolefin resin with an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

9. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graft-modified polyolefin resin is a graft-modified polyethylene resin or a graft-modified polypropylene resin.

10-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A seal film for sealing an electrolyte of a battery or a protective film for protecting an electrode of a battery, which film is made from the laminate as claimed in claim 1.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A seal film for sealing an electrolyte of a secondary battery or a protective film for protecting an electrode of a secondary battery, which film is made from the laminate as claimed in claim 1.

17-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inert protective film is formed by an acid treatment of said metal layer.

26. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 25, wherein said acid is selected from the group consisting of chromic acid, phosphoric acid, and mixtures thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said oxidative treatment comprises anodic oxidation.

28-29. (Cancelled)